

beginning on the date of the enactment of this section and ending on September 30, 2002, executes a written agreement described in subsection (c) to accept a commission as an officer of the armed forces and remain on active duty for a period of not less than four years may, upon the acceptance of the agreement, by the Secretary concerned, be paid an accession bonus in an amount determined by the Secretary concerned.

"(2) The amount of an accession bonus under paragraph (1) may not exceed \$30,000.

"(h) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR BONUS.—A person may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a) if—

"(1) the person, in exchange for an agreement to accept an appointment as an officer, received financial assistance from the Department of Defense to pursue a course of study in dentistry; or

"(2) the Secretary concerned determines that the person is not qualified to become and remain certified and licensed as a dentist.

"(c) AGREEMENT.—The agreement referred to in subsection (a) shall provide that, consistent with the needs of the armed service concerned, the person executing the agreement will be assigned to duty for the period of obligated service covered by the agreement as an officer of the Dental Corps of the Army or the Navy or an officer of the Air Force designated as a dental officer.

"(d) REPAYMENT.—(1) An officer who receives a payment under subsection (a) and who fails to become and remain certified or licensed as a dentist during the period for which the payment is made shall refund to the United States an amount equal to the full amount of such payment.

"(2) An officer who voluntarily terminates service on active duty before the end of the period agreed to be served under subsection (a) shall refund to the United States an amount that bears the same ratio to the amount paid to the officer as the unserved part of such period bears to the total period agreed to be served.

"(3) An obligation to reimburse the United States imposed under paragraph (1) or (2) is for all purposes a debt owed to the United States.

"(4) A discharge in bankruptcy under title 11 that is entered less than five years after the termination of an

agreement under
this section does not discharge the person signing
such agreement
from a debt arising under such agreement or this
subsection. This
paragraph applies to any case commenced under
title 11 after
the date of the enactment of this section."

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of
such chapter
is amended by inserting after the item relating to
section 302a
the following new item:

"302h. Special pay: accession bonus for dental officers."

(3) Section 303a of title 37, United States Code,
is amended
by striking out "302g" each place it appears and
inserting in lieu
thereof "302h".

(d) REPORT ON ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES To INCREASE
RECRUIT-
MENT OF DENTISTS.—Not later than April 1, 1997,
the Secretary
of Defense shall submit to Congress a report
describing the feasibility
of increasing the number of persons enrolled in
the Armed
Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial
Assistance
program who are pursuing a course of study in
dentistry in
anticipation of service as an officer of the Dental Corps
of the Army